

PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

R E S T R I C T E D

Foreign Nationalities Branch
Number M-325Office of Strategic Services
18 September 1945

Event: LECTURE ON GERMANY'S FUTURE
Sponsors: Friends of German American, Victory Committee
of German-American Trade Unionists, German-
American Emergency Conference, Inc.
Speaker: Gerhart Eisler
Place: Transport Workers' Hall, New York City
Date: 12 September 1945
Attendance: 120

Gerhart Eisler, refugee Communist spokesman whose column in the Daily Worker appears under the pen-name of "Zane Borger", told a New York audience on 12 September that Germany under Soviet Russian auspices stood a good chance of remaining united and of staging an industrial comeback -- provided she gives proof of her "democratic" intentions. War between the USSR and the United States, he warned, would not only divide and destroy Germany but would reveal a Russian power now scarcely imagined.

The annexation of the eastern territories of Germany by Poland and Russia was explained by Eisler as necessary to give security to these nations. Eisler said it could not be denied that those territories were the home of Germans, "principally Germanized Slavs." However, the German people could not be trusted at this time, and in order to prevent future aggression by Germany, the eastern territories had to be withheld from Germany so they could not be used again as a basis of military operations. That, he said, was a

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bitter but necessary operation. After all, he continued, many millions of Germans had almost succeeded in destroying the first Socialist country of the world and had killed twenty million Russians and Poles. Once German imperialism collapsed from within, trust in the German people would be re-established with its neighbors and then peaceful changes would be possible.

Concerning the removal of German machinery by the Russians Eisler said that all of it had been essential for war industries. Russia did not want to prevent Germany from continuing its peaceful industries. However, he reminded his audience, as Stalin had said at the time the Germans were standing before Stalingrad, Hitlers come and go but Germany would always remain. Stalin would keep his promise and would not destroy the German people.

Eisler asserted that a war between the United States and Soviet Russia would have to be prevented at all costs. Such a war would take place on German soil and would mean the final destruction of the German people. The Germans would enter it not united but split in two parts, one joining the East, the other the West. But, he warned at this point, Russia "and those nations who would join her in a war" would be much stronger than many people realized.

Concluding, he spoke of the great mission the German people had now in their keeping. They could "make good for

their sins and promote peace in Europe and the world." They "could now show their democratic neighbors, Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia," that they were "social and democratic but by no means Social-Democratic."